

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Renumbered as claims 1-28 for pending claims 34-41 and 43-62.

Claims 34-41 and 43-62 of the current application are allowed for the reason of none of prior art of record teaches nor suggests "a selecting section for selecting one of a first mode and a second mode, the first mode being a mode in which, in a case where both a color page and a black-and-white page are to be formed on a single sheet, images for all the pages to be formed on the single sheet are formed by the color image forming section, the second mode being a mode in which, in a case where both a color page and a black-and-white page are to be formed on a single sheet, an image for the color page to be formed on the single sheet is formed by the color image forming section and an image for the black-and-white page to be formed on the single sheet is formed by the black-and-white image forming section, wherein the selecting section selects the first mode in a case where sheets having images formed thereon beforehand by the color image forming section are mixed without passing through the black-and-white image forming section and selects the second mode in a case where the sheets are mixed with passing through the black-and-white image forming section."

The closest prior art Toshihiro (JP 2000-222148), discloses printing device to print color page and black and white page in different printers, either singularly or in combination with other cited reference obvious fails to anticipate or render the above limitations.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to QUANG N. VO whose telephone number is (571)270-1121. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30AM-5:00PM Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, King Y. Poon can be reached on 5712727440. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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